

Minutes of Somerford Keynes Annual Parish Council Meeting **Village Hall, 13th May 2024**

Present: Cllr A. Clark (AC), Cllr M. Keegan (MK), Cllr J. Whitwell (JW), Cllr M.H-Oldland (MHO), Cllr N. Hunt (NH), CC Cllr L Spivey (LS), CDC Cllr M McKeown (MM),

Also present: Clerk K. Holdsworth (KH), Richard Goldman (RG) and Lynton Mogridge (LM) from the Village Hall Committee plus four members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr H Collins (HC), Cllr G. Valentine (GV), Mike Wilding (MW, Village Lake)

2. Election of Officers

It was proposed and agreed that Cllr A Clark and Cllr N Hunt would continue as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively.

3. Declaration of Interest

Cllr M McKeown

4. Public Session

The following matter was raised:

- 4.1 Marcus Gibbons has kindly agreed to do two more free First Aid Training Courses. These will be held on Tuesday 4th June am and Saturday 22nd June pm at the Village Hall.

The sessions Marcus has previously run have been very well received, if you would like to take part please contact SKPCClerk@gmail.com

5. Approval of Minutes of 8th April 2024 Meeting

Proposed MK, seconded AC.

6. Report from County Cllr L. Spivey

LS's Annual report can be found in appendix one.

LS thanked the community for engagement to help resolve the flooding issues in Water Lane and NH for his input at a recent CDC Parish Council Forum. She stated that SKPC is seen as proactive and forward thinking in all that it does for the community.

LS shared concerns around the state of the roads generally and specific issues such as the time taken to fix the issue at the Tesco roundabout. She explained that there is a regime of road inspections with main roads looked at every week, secondary roads every month and rural roads every three months.

Any issues should be reported to <https://fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>

7.Report from District Cllr M.McKeown

MM's Annual report can be found in appendix two.

8. Village Lake Committee

Mike Wilding's (MW) report is in appendix three.

Given the interest in shared green spaces highlighted in last year's community survey it is worth noting that the Village Lake Committee have prepared and seeded a grassy small play area for younger children which is between the picnic bench in the north west corner and the shed. It is hoped that this will develop over the spring.

9. Completed Actions from Previous Meeting

9.1 Lower Mill Estate

GV has invited Andrew Bonner, the new LME Site Manager, to join us at our meeting in June.

9.2 Lower Mill Estate Ecology Work for the Community

JW and MW met with LME representatives to understand what work they may be able to undertake as part of their S106 Agreement. Possible Village Lake projects (using LME staff and their power tools for cutting back work) plus the hedge at the western end of Water Lane were discussed.

9.3 Rural England Prosperity Fund

HC attended a webinar which set out funding available, this has a specific focus on village hall energy initiatives. Applications need to be made by July 12th, the Village Hall Committee have been informed, is one for them to pursue should they wish to.

9.4 Highways

MK had raised the topic of the state of the roads and what GCC Highways is doing to address the issue. This was covered in the discussion with LS as documented in section six.

10. Ongoing and New Actions

10.1 LME Traffic in Mill Lane

The PC has written to LME regarding measures to avoid visiting traffic entering Mill Lane. A positive response has been received from Estate Director Lara Lymaney.

Action: GV to follow up with Lara.

10.2 Build Back Better Fund

A list of village lake related projects was presented to LS, there was positive feedback on their qualification potential.

Action: MW to formally submit applications in June.

10.3 Land to the South East of Ashlands House Appeal

We have received details of the appeal and process from The National Planning Inspector.

The PC has engaged with MM from a CDC perspective as well as those in the community with the deepest knowledge of all the history of this process.

An objection will be submitted to the appeal in support of CDC's original decision.

Action: MHO to provide draft statement for PC by May 17th.

Action: KH to go through the registration process for the PC in order that our statement can be submitted.

10.4 Shorncote Flood Mitigation

MK has spoken with Jason Betty who said the Enforcement Officer has now visited the site and issued instructions for certain works to be completed. MK is still awaiting confirmation from Jason Betty defining the works which need to be carried out.

Action: MK to chase Jason Betty again.

10.5 Community Speed Camara

On April 10th the contractor came to install the pole for the speed camera but deemed that the position which had been selected by Gloucestershire Constabulary is unsuitable due to a lack of light for the solar panel. Other positions were looked at but they were also not suitable.

Action: The PC will write to Bob Passmore of the Speed Watch Programme requesting an on site meeting to agree a way forwards.

10.6 Active Travel Fund & Spine Road Cycle Path Missing Link

This is complex due to the number of stakeholders, land owners and local authorities (it spans Gloucestershire and Wiltshire) involved.

However, dialogue is ongoing and Bewley Homes are obliged to provide a path through their land as a condition of their planning approval.

It was agreed that the best approach is probably to focus on the SK end and hope that drives momentum in other areas.

Action: NH to continue to progress and update.

10.7 Flooding

HC has updated the report based on feedback from local experts. There are few amends to make prior to publication but if any parishioners would like a copy of it please ask the Parish Clerk.

A newly produced drainage map will be on display at the AGM.

Matters of proactive inspection and mapping are ongoing.

There has been dialogue with the Environment Agency (EA) regarding the pump and kiosk at Neigh Bridge. They have confirmed that the pump is working and that they have had a plan to move the kiosk for some time but this project has been passed over in favour of other more pressing demands for funding for a number of years.

HC has written to the EA asking whether the project could be accelerated if the PC offered some funding. Also for them to confirm what that funding would need to be and what the advantages of moving the kiosk are. They have acknowledged the offer but we await a formal response.

Action: HC to continue to provide updates.

The Parish Council would like to thank Hilary (and her husband) for all the hard work on this important and substantial piece of work. Also thanks to the many parishioners who have helped Hilary by providing their knowledge and insight.

10.8 Audit

GV and KH have now prepared the accounts for 2023/24 and passed them to the auditor, we await feedback.

Action: KH to chase auditor.

10.9 AGM Agenda

The AGM is on Friday 24th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, speakers and content have been agreed.

Action: KH to publish the agenda and purchase refreshments.

10.10 Dog Fouling Posters

Not yet received.

Action: KH to write to parishioner to see if offer still stands.

10.11 Residential Ponds Initiative

An event will take place on July 13th from 10am to 1pm in the Village Hall then from 2pm to 4pm at the Village Lake.

Action: HC/KH to share more details once received.

10.12 Defibrillators

The two defibrillators in the village are managed by different volunteers, both of whom do an excellent job looking after them.

There has been much correspondence on this topic, mainly around the fact that they are registered with different bodies. The volunteers have good reason to retain current arrangements and both are visible to the local Ambulance Service so the view is to keep as is .

It has been suggested that having the access codes on them is helpful in saving valuable time in the event of an emergency.

Action: KH to suggest to 'owners' that codes be displayed.

10.13 Roadside Repairs & Signs

KH emailed GCC Highways regarding various repairs to signage on local roads which have been reported on FixMyStreet. Highways responded and said they will send an inspector out.

Action: Monitor to see whether repairs are done.

11. Community Infrastructure Levy

In April a further £35,040.77 was received.

Given these payments are triggered by completion of agreed development projects it should be possible to forecast future receipts. Subsequent to the meeting MM has confirmed that a further £24k should come from an already approved development and perhaps a further £10k from one which is in process. Given the latter has yet to be decided upon then that would be some way into the future

11.1 Village Hall

It is agreed that PC will fund the kitchen refurbishment using CIL funds.

Action: Village Hall Committee (VHC) to obtain a final quotation and pass to PC to place an order.

The VHC will invest the money that would have been spent on the kitchen on VH infrastructure. The issue of heating has been raised throughout the winter months by hall users so this is a focus area.

RG pointed out that there are heating facilities in the hall. As part of a policy to keep rental charges very low users need to feed the electricity meters if they want heating on whilst using the hall. This has obviously become more expensive as energy prices have risen steeply over the last couple of years.

A piece of scoping work is required to work out the best way forwards in order to develop a sustainable and efficient energy plan for the next ten years.

Action: LM to produce a scope of works for initial consultancy and will update the PC in the autumn.

Overall the PC see the VH as an important community asset and are keen to work with the VHC to identify other investment opportunity that will benefit parishioners given the finds available via CIL, VH general reserves and various grants which could be available.

11.2 Village Notice Board

KH has pointed out that this is not really fit for purpose as it doesn't have the capacity to display clearly everything that needs to go in it.

The view is that planning permission would not be required for a new one as it would be replacing an existing structure though it would be good to engage with those in adjacent properties prior to committing to anything.

Action: KH to look at pricing for alternatives which can then be discussed.

11.3 Parish Church

JW raised the possibility of helping the Parish Church from CIL funds. A member of the PCC was present and will take this suggestion to their next meeting.

Action: PCC to feedback requests and ideas.

11.4 General

If any parishioners have suggestions as to how CIL funds could be used they are encouraged to send them to the Parish Clerk.

12. Planning

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

APPEAL UNDER SECTION 78

Site Address: Land to the South East of Ashland House Somerford Keynes Gloucestershire GL7 6DS

Description of development: Erection of 4 dwellings, new road access, footpath, and associated landscaping including public open space and an attenuation/soakaway pond (re-submission of 19/04270/FUL)

Application Reference: 20/04079/FUL

Appellant's name: CTC (Gloucester) Ltd

Appeal Reference: APP/F1610/W/24/3338989

Appeal start date: 19 April 2024

Action: As described in section 10.3.

13. Correspondence

13.1 Defibrillator Registration

See section 10.12.

13.2 Lake 32 SSSI Status

Email received, no action needed.

13.3 Tim Holland-Martin – Diversion of Footpath BSK 18

JW met with Tim Holland-Martin and walked the path. The relocation is being done by Gloucestershire Footpaths and this will be completed after the bird nesting season. No PC action required.

13.4 CIL Monies

See section 11.

13.5 Knead on Wheels

The next visit is on 25th May.

13.6 Somerford Keynes Garden Party

To be held on Saturday 6th July 2024, more information to follow

13.7 Planning Application 24/00753 – Kemble Mill House

Email received from Friday Island though had no specific comments. KH replied stating that in April's PC meeting no objections were raised.

14. Financial Matters

Income	£4725.00 Precept (First Payment received) £35640.77 CIL Monies Received, proposed to transfer £25,000.00 into interest earning account.
Outgoings	£257.60 - Zurich Insurance £173.47 – GAPTC Subscription £21.55 – Refreshments for Litter Pick £127.30 – Extra hours Clerk
Transfers	£61,000 into interest earning account

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Village Signs

Grass has now grown around the village signs, JW suggested that PC members tidy them up. MHO has already done the one by the Sculpture Park.

Action: JW and AC to do the Neigh Bridge and Water Lane ones respectively.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 10th June 2024 at 7.30 pm

Appendix One

Cllr Lisa Spivey **County Councillor for the South Cerney Division** **Gloucestershire County Council** **Annual Report 2023/2024**

This year has again been a very busy time for the County Council and my focus has been on local highways issues with much of the winter spent sorting out flooding. I have asked questions and proposed motions at Full Council meetings and set up working groups for various local issues which seem to have been positive. Here is an overview of some of the work I have been involved in as your County Councillor.
Budget for 2023/24

Proposals put forward by the Conservative majority administration for a budget of £616million were passed in February. This represents a £42m increase in the budget compared to 23/24. For a band D property, this will mean a monthly increase of £6.34. The increase is above the expected rate of inflation for this year. It is made up of 2.99% increase on council tax and a 2% precept for adult social care.

Amendments by all three opposition parties were accepted. These included the following from my Group:

£25,000 – Increased spending on Public Rights of Way

Increasing the resource available for mapping so people know which walking routes are available to them.

£25,000 – Additional money for Flood schemes

In a year with huge amounts of flooding across the County, the group felt it was important to support communities that suffered from the flooding that occurred.

£100,000 – Additional money for Road safety

Liberal Democrats are committed to reducing the amount of deaths that take place on the county's roads which continue to cause alarm and are significantly higher than statistical neighbouring authorities

£20,000 – Feasibility Study to support Foster families

Work up the governance arrangements and criteria for a scheme to allow foster carers to make improvements to their home to take extra children

This is a Liberal Democrat idea to provide more space for foster carers to take care of more children. The Policy, could save the county council millions in the future if it means fewer children being put into out of county placements.

Motions to Full Council

In recent meetings we have tabled motions, of which amended versions were passed after the Conservative administration removed criticisms of the government. Topics included:

- Shortening waiting lists for Cancer care and the NHS

- Holding the Conservative Government to account to keep their promise of restoring policing to 2010 levels (we are still a long way off this in police per person terms)
- Cost of Living Crisis
- Declaring a roads emergency

Local Bus Transport

The County Council has had a bid for £6 million accepted to introduce more electric busses in the county. The Robin bus service is due to be rolled out in the south Cotswolds in the Autumn and should provide a really useful mode of desperately needed public transport in the area.

The Council has agreed a bus improvement plan worth £4.4 million meaning some services are now more regular.

This means the trend of recent years seeing cuts to bus services is finally starting to slow. This is thanks to local groups supporting existing bus services. Services like the Robin (a bookable bus that links with existing bus routes) have been a success and are showing a blueprint for supporting rural services in the future.

Road Safety Policy

Our group is committed to the County Council's vision for reducing the amount of road accidents taking place across the County. The Council now has a pot of over £2,000,000 to tackle road safety.

Going forward, the aim will be to spend this money wisely and reduce the high casualty rates we currently see on Rural A roads.

Highways Local Fund

I was delighted to support some patching works (Ewen and A417 Ampney St Peter), flood alleviation schemes (Somerford Keynes, Cerney Wick), verge tidying (Ampney Crucis), setts (Down Ampney) and signage (Meysey Hampton).

Build Back Better – Councillor Scheme

I received many applications for the remainder of my Build Back Better pot and was able to support many fantastic groups this year including: Down Ampney Primary School, Cotswold Counselling, Meysey Hampton Guides, Ampney Crucis Village Hall, Poulton Parish Council Playground, Kemble Community Gardens, Cotswolds Lakes Trust and Cotswolds Friends. I still have some money left which has to be spent by the end of this year, so do get in contact if you have a project.

Committees

This year I was honoured to be selected by my fellow members to Chair the Adult Social Care and Communities scrutiny committee which looks at Adult Social Care, Public Health, Trading Standards and Coronary Services. This is a fascinating committee and we have looked at various topics including the use of alcohol in everyday life, how the county looks after refugees and asylum seekers, the coronary service and coroner's court and housing for the homeless.

I also sit on Corporate Overview and Scrutiny which looks at the County Council's corporate remit.

I took part in the bus Working Group mentioned above which had a very targeted remit and made a series of recommendations for Cabinet and council to consider.

This is just a brief overview of the work of the last year. Please feel free to contact me about these or any other matters.

Lisa.spivey@gloucestershire.gov.uk / 01285 653405

Appendix Two

Annual Report

May 2023 - May 2024

Prepared by Mike McKeown

Councillor for the Kemble Ward Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability
Cotswold District Council (CDC)

Acknowledgement

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the residents of the Kemble Ward for electing me as your councillor in May 2023. It has been an honour and a pleasure to serve our community, meet so many wonderful people, and work together to make a positive impact on our ward and district.

Ward Councillor Report

As your ward councillor, I have been actively involved in several initiatives and projects aimed at improving the quality of life in the Kemble Ward (Kemble, Kemble Wick, Ewen, Somerford Keynes, Shorncote, Poole Keynes, Rodmarton, Tarlton and Coates). Here are some of the key activities and accomplishments over the past year:

- **Flood Management in Waterlane:** Worked with Somerford Keynes Parish Council, Lisa Spivey, and residents to address persistent flooding issues on Waterlane. We made significant progress, including an exciting moment where I had to call the fire brigade to pump out water!

- **Wild Duck Inn Ewen:** CDC granted planning permission for revised. Although there are concerns regarding priorities of the owner, I will be following up with the new owners, Youngs, and the Kemble & Ewen Parish Council.

Cycle Path Development: Collaborated with Sustrans, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council, Somerford Keynes Parish Council, and CDC colleagues to initiate the development of a cycle path between Kemble and Cirencester and connect the “missing link” between Somerford Keynes and the North End Cotswolds cycle path. This project is progressing with support from GCC and Councillor Lisa Spivey.

- **Community Speed Watch:** Promoted the use of new Community Speed Watch cameras to manage speeding in our villages. Ewen has received its camera, that is providing useful data and enabling police action. Somerford Keynes will receive one soon.
- **Biker Night Issues:** Noise and safety concerns related to Biker Night at the Tavern Inn in Kemble. Discussions with the parish council, landlord, so far this year we've seen a more respectful atmosphere. Will be keeping an "ear" on this with a plan to engage the biker group together with Councillor Ray Brassington, who is a biker, and the Parish Council for a self-policing if necessary.
- **Funding Support for Local Initiatives:** Assisted local businesses and village halls in applying for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Funds for solar and heating improvements. This included support for Somerford Keynes village hall to install EV chargers later this year as well as the grant application. [Rural England Prosperity Fund - Cotswold District Council](#)
- **Kemble Community Gardens:** Delighted to have supported the Kemble Community Gardens project, raising £9,277 through Crowdfund Cotswolds for various improvements. Continued efforts are being made to secure a lease between CDC and the parish council and to protect the gardens from development by removing it from the revised local plan. [KCG community & wildlife haven project \(spacehive.com\)](#)
- **Response to Gloucestershire County Council Vision Document:** Addressed concerns about a leaked document proposing high housing numbers, which exceeds the requirements of our emerging Local Plan. Reassured residents that CDC controls the planning process, not GCC, see response here: [Gloucestershire County Council vision document \(cotswold.gov.uk\)](#)

Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Sustainability Report

1. Transportation Electrification

Expansion of Public EV Charging Infrastructure

Transport remains the largest contributor to CO2 emissions in the Cotswolds. To mitigate this, CDC has substantially expanded public electric vehicle (EV) charging facilities. New installations include 8 chargers at Trinity Road, Cirencester, and 14 at Rissington Road, Bourton-on-the-Water. Additionally, grant funding of £191,000 was secured to support the future installation of 66 chargers across 11 CDC car parks. This initiative is a cornerstone of our "Charge in 10" strategy, aiming to provide EV charging access within a 10-minute walk from approximately 30-40% of homes lacking off-street parking and for visitors.

2. Climate Governance

Leadership in Climate Leadership Gloucestershire (CLG)

As Vice Chair and subsequently Chair of the CLG, we have spearheaded efforts to synchronize climate actions across Gloucestershire's public sectors, including councils, the police, and NHS. CDC has notably led the food and farming theme.

3. Renewable Energy Initiatives

Solar Energy on Council Buildings

Approval was granted for funding to install solar panels on council-owned buildings by 2024, reducing both the council's carbon footprint and energy costs. Installation is underway.

Cotswold Home Solar Initiative

Launched in partnership with Make My House Green, this scheme has significantly boosted the adoption of solar energy and battery systems in residential settings.

[Cotswold Home Solar - Cotswold District Council](#)

4. Community Engagement and Events

Climathon

Hosted jointly with the RAU and Gloucestershire University, this event concentrated on climate action within the food and farming sectors.

NetZero Business Event

At this Growth Hub-organised event, I discussed strategies for local businesses to reduce their carbon emissions effectively.

EV Event

An online forum conducted with the Energy Saving Trust provided residents with valuable insights into EV adoption, with plans for an in-person event later in the year.

5. Climate Action Enhancement

Establishment of the CDC Climate Board

The board was established to enhance climate action through deeper engagement with cabinet members and senior officers, developing detailed action plans for all relevant areas.

6. Social Initiatives

Warm and Well Programme

In collaboration with Severn Wye, this initiative has provided invaluable support to lower-income residents through free advice and access to grants for improving energy efficiency and transitioning to heat pumps. [Warm and Well | a fitter home for a healthy future](#)

7. Housing Development

Social Housing Innovations

Working with providers like Bromford, we are designing new zero emissions homes that are cost-effective for our most vulnerable populations.

8. Community Energy Projects

Thames Head Energy: Empowering Local Renewable Initiatives

Cotswold District Council has championed community-based energy solutions through substantial support for Thames Head Energy, a local community energy not-for-profit organisation which I had the privilege to co-found. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to grassroots renewable energy projects.

Through Crowdfund Cotswolds, CDC facilitated the initial fundraising efforts that garnered £18,000 from residents, local businesses, the parish council, and CDC itself. These funds have been pivotal in enabling 14 local homes to install solar panels and battery systems, leading to significant financial and environmental gains—approximately £19,000 in annual savings and a reduction of around 17 tonnes of CO2 each year.

Further bolstering our efforts, Thames Head Energy has recently secured additional funding: £3,500 from the Gloucestershire County Council's Build Back Better programme and £40,000 from the Southwest NetZero Hub. These funds are earmarked for expanding local EV charging infrastructure and identifying potential sites across the Cotswolds for a community solar farm. This initiative not only leverages local resources and capabilities but also fosters a strong sense of community ownership and participation in our shared sustainability goals.

[Home - Thames Head Energy](#)

9. Policy Development

Revision of the Local Plan

We are revising our local plan to ensure future housing is sustainable, focusing on high energy efficiency and the exclusion of fossil fuels for heating. Enabling future homeowners to reduce their carbon footprint and energy costs.

10. Residential Retrofitting

Retrofitting Initiatives

Our collaboration with Climate Leadership aims to enhance the energy efficiency of existing homes. We were successful in winning £100,000 of funding from the Southwest NetZero Hub, together with Cheltenham Borough Council, Forrest of Dean District Council and Climate Leadership Gloucestershire. Plans to launch online advice and have a dedicated retrofit officer are underway, they will come into communities to give talks and advice to encourage and support retrofitting of insulation, heat pumps, solar etc.

This report underscores our commitment to fostering a sustainable future for the Cotswolds, aligning local actions with global environmental objectives. Through continued innovation and community collaboration, we are setting a standard for responsible and effective climate governance.

General Report on CDC

Despite the financial pressures and challenges facing local governments nationwide, CDC has achieved notable successes and continues to deliver excellent services. Here are some highlights from the past year:

Performance and Corporate Plan: CDC was ranked as the 55th best performing local authority in England, particularly for our waste service and recycling rates. Our new corporate plan focuses on housing delivery, the economy, climate, and communities.

In-sourcing of Staff: Initiated the in-sourcing of staff from Publica to improve service delivery and recruitment.

Funding and Projects: Secured funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund for various projects, including business grants, village hall improvements, and the Grace Network.

Infrastructure and Facilities: Delivered Changing Places toilet facilities at several locations, installed community bike stands throughout the district, and commenced work on a new Local Plan and green infrastructure strategy.

Community Support: Continued to support Crowdfund Cotswold campaigns, health and wellbeing programmes, and cultural initiatives. Recognised community champions through the "Unsung Hero" scheme and supported the growth of Cirencester Pantry.

Economic Indicators: Maintained the lowest unemployment rate in the county, kept town centre vacancy rates below the national average, and improved broadband coverage.

Fly tipping. We have won a grant for continuing education on Duty of Care to prevent fly tipping. Working with neighbouring Districts, Highways and the Police we continue to hold Stop and Search to advise van drivers of the requirements for Waste Carrying licences. We also significantly increased fines for fly tipping

Appendix Three
Village Lake
Report from Mike Wilding

Work at the Lake has been very much hampered by the abysmal wet weather. The annual bonfire morning has been postponed three times. We have managed only one volunteer morning and used it for annual maintenance to the wildflower area, preparing and overseeding it, once the daffodils started to fade. Keeping the grass at bay is the key, and the yellow rattle, sown December 22, is doing well to help as it is a parasite on grass.

The entrance ramp to the shed has been improved which makes getting the mower in and out easier. Our white duck is back and two little grebe chicks have hatched, but they are not easy to see, and the parents stay underwater for a long time.

We have also prepared and seeded a grassy small play area, for younger children between the picnic bench in the NW corner and our shed, which we hope will develop over the spring.

Mike, Nick, Jane, Lisa and Graham your SK Village Lake Committee